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**MARSH HARBOUR
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

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Medical Officer of Health

Market Harborough Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,771
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to rate books	3,371
(This number includes 81 houses combined with shops)	
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1953	£70,708
Sum represented by a penny rate	£282

POPULATION :—

1953 Registrar General's estimate ...	10,340
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TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the changes in population during the past ten years :—

1944 .. 9,972	1949 .. 10,500
1945 .. 9,792	1950 .. 10,420
1946 .. 9,897	1951 .. 10,310
1947 .. 10,470	1952 .. 10,240
1948 .. 10,340	1953 .. 10,340

BIRTHS :—

		1952	1953
<i>Live Births :—</i>	Legitimate		
	Male ...	76	74
	Female ...	73	69
	Total ...	149	143
	Illegitimate		
	Male ...	1	3
	Female ...	2	2
	Total ...	3	5
<i>Total Live Births :—</i>			
	Male ...	77	77
	Female ...	75	71
	Total ...	152	148
<i>Stillbirths :—</i>	Legitimate		
	Male ...	1	Nil
	Female ...	1	2
	Total ...	2	2
	Illegitimate		
	Male ...	Nil	Nil
	Female ...	Nil	Nil
	Total ...	Nil	Nil
<i>Total Stillbirths :—</i>			
	Male ...	1	Nil
	Female ...	1	2
	Total ...	2	2

Birthrate per 1,000 estimate population :—

			1952	1953
Market Harborough	...	...	15.3	14.3
England and Wales	...	...	15.3	15.5

Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births :—

Market Harborough	29.2	33.7
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<i>Stillbirths</i> :—Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	12.9	13.3
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Stillbirths rate per 1,000 estimated population :—

Market Harborough	0.19	0.19
England and Wales	..	...	0.35	0.35

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Live Births	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Market Harborough	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1944	200	20.0	21.1	17.6
1945	194	18.9	18.8	16.1
1946	190	19.2	20.6	19.1
1947	182	17.3	21.2	20.5
1948	177	17.1	18.84	17.9
1949	190	18.1	17.35	16.7
1950	174	16.7	16.17	15.8
1951	157	15.3	16.02	15.5
1952	152	15.3	15.67	15.3
1953	148	14.3	15.43	15.5

DEATHS :—

		1952	1953
<i>Total Number of Deaths :—</i>	Male ...	51	51
	Female ...	59	79
	Total ...	110	130

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population :—

Market Harborough	...	...	10.7	12.5
England and Wales	...	...	11.3	11.4

TABLE showing changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years:—

Year	Total Deaths	Death Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Market Harborough	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1944	127	12.6	11.2	11.6
1945	122	12.5	11.1	11.4
1946	101	10.2	10.7	11.5
1947	110	10.5	11.3	12.0
1948	109	10.4	9.77	10.8
1949	128	12.2	10.68	11.7
1950	109	10.4	10.28	11.6
1951	127	12.3	10.74	12.5
1952	110	10.7	10.06	11.3
1953	130	12.5	10.05	11.4

1952 1953

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

No. of deaths puerperal sepsis	...	...	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	Nil	Nil

Rate per 1,000 live and still births:—

Market Harborough	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.72	0.76

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

No. of deaths:—	Legitimate	Male	...	2	1
		Female	...	1	Nil
		Total	...	3	1
	Illegitimate	Male	...	Nil	Nil
		Female	...	Nil	Nil
		Total	...	Nil	Nil
	Total Infant deaths			3	1

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births:—

Market Harborough	...	...	...	19.0	6.7
England and Wales	...	...	...	27.6	26.8

TABLE showing deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)		
		Market Harborough	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1944	9	45.0	37	46
1945	10	51.0	36	46
1946	6	47.3	36	43
1947	4	21.9	43	41
1948	5	28.2	32.2	34
1949	6	31.6	27.1	32
1950	2	11.5	27.0	29.8
1951	2	12.7	25.1	29.6
1952	3	19.0	26.5	27.6
1953	1	6.7	28.0	26.8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

		1952	1953
No. of deaths :—	Legitimate		
	Male ...	Nil	1
	Female ...	1	Nil
	Total ...	1	1
	Illegitimate	Male ...	Nil
			Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Registrar General's Classification :—

		1952			1953		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	1	5	1	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6	—	—	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—	3	—	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1	—	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1	—	1	1
14.	Malignant neoplasms, lymphatic and other	2	1	3	8	8	16
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1	—	2	2
16.	Diabetes	—	1	1	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	4	7	11	10	16	26
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	7	14	1	6	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	2	2	—	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	8	10	18	7	9	16
21.	Other circulatory disease	5	5	10	2	5	7
22.	Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	1	2	3	3	5	8
24.	Bronchitis	5	2	7	5	3	8
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	1	—	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3	—	2	2
29.	Hyperphasia of the prostate	1	—	1	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	—	—	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	10	15	3	9	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4	2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	1	1	2	1	1	2
35.	Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total deaths, all causes		51	59	110	51	79	130

CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1953 was ushered in with an epidemic of measles. The epidemic itself was expected but the rapid rise in the number of cases was unusual and is displayed in the table shown below.

Other common infections were of trivial proportions.

Immunisation.

Facilities for immunisation against diphtheria continue to be provided free of charge under the National Health Service Act and 89 children received their primary immunisation during the year. A further 63 children received additional injections to maintain their immunity.

Tuberculosis.

There were 2 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during the year. 7 new cases were notified together with 1 new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis. 1 additional case of respiratory tuberculosis entered the District to take up residence.

The cases on the Register at the end of the year were as follows :—

			Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	...	...	28	15	43
Non-respiratory	...	...	4	5	9
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	32	20	52
			—	—	—

Infectious Disease Notifications :—

Measles	...	...	146	157	303
Whooping Cough	...	...	6	8	14
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	2	2

Measles Notifications : An analysis by age and sex.

Age Group					
Under 1 year	...	...	4	2	6
1 to 2 years	...	...	27	24	51
3 to 4 years	...	...	39	43	82
5 to 9 years	...	...	71	80	151
10 to 14 years	...	...	4	4	8
15 to 24 years	...	...	—	—	—
Over 25 years	...	...	1	4	5
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	146	157	303
			—	—	—

TABLE showing the monthly distribution of certain infectious diseases:

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	2	14	16	3	3	2	22	63
Whooping Cough	3	7	31	20	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	72
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	7

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles	88	137	62	13	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	303
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	1	—	1	14
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2

THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 of this Act empowers a Local Authority on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health to apply to the Courts for an order for the removal to hospital or other appropriate institution of persons found to be suffering from grave chronic disease, being aged or infirm or physically incapacitated and living under insanitary conditions, and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

The procedure for administering this section has been greatly simplified by the coming into force of National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, which makes possible immediate action by a Medical Officer of Health to safeguard the welfare of the aged.

It was not found necessary to take any action under these Acts during the year under review.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

For the preparation and presentation of the following data, I am greatly indebted to Mr. B. G. Elliott, M.R. San. I., Senior Sanitary Inspector, whose work during the year under review is herein summarized.

Water :—

Throughout the year the public piped water supply has been satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity. Five samples of the treated water after going into supply were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester, for bacteriological examination and all proved to be satisfactory. The water is free from any tendency to plumbo-solvent action.

Ministry approval having been received, contracts have been let and some works commenced in connection with the scheme to increase the sources of supply and to provide a central treatment plant. It is hoped that substantial progress will now be made in this work. No extensions of supply mains have been carried out during 1953.

The present water supply to dwelling houses in the district is as follows :—

	Houses	Population
Number supplied from wells ...	16	49
Number supplied from public water mains :—		
(a) Direct to the houses ...	3,208	9,762
(b) By means of standpipes ...	174	529

Fourteen samples from private wells, which supply the above 16 houses, were chemically tested and all were found to be free from pollution. The piped supply was substituted for well water at 2 houses.

Drainage and Sewerage :—

There have been no alterations or extensions to sewers. Preliminary consideration has been given to proposals for reconstructing the sewage disposal works in conjunction with a scheme for refuse disposal on an adjoining site.

Closet Accommodation :—

Ninety-seven new water closets have been built, bringing the total number of closets connected to the public sewerage system to approximately 4,877. Five outlying properties have private drainage systems, and fifteen premises similarly situated outside the seweraged areas are provided with chemical closets.

Public Cleansing :—

The replacement of worn-out dustbins for refuse storage at houses and other premises receives constant attention. 262 new dustbins have been provided as a result of the service of notices, and 78 of this number were provided by the Council under the Municipal Dustbin Scheme. This Scheme commenced to operate on 1st April, 1951, and at the close of 1953 a total of 158 dustbins at 154 properties have been provided and are maintained by the Council at a charge of 5/- for each bin per year. As far as possible, a weekly collection of domestic refuse is undertaken and for this purpose a new large capacity S.D. freighter motor vehicle (fore and aft tipper type) has been installed and has replaced two smaller vehicles previously used. A scheme is in operation also for the collection of trade refuse and includes 150 dustbins at 102 shops and other business premises, and charges are made for this service in accordance with the Council's Scale. The method of disposal of refuse is by incineration at the Council's Destructor, where the approximate quantity dealt with during the year was 3,891 tons. The market for most of the salvaged materials having ceased, it was only possible to dispose of 5 tons 1 cwt. 2½ qrs. of metals in this way. Owing to the worn-out condition of the Destructor, which has functioned continuously since 1927, and the prospect of heavy expenditure in repair or replacement, consideration has been given to a change over to controlled tipping, and negotiations for acquiring a suitable site adjoining the sewage disposal works are in progress.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	217
Defects or nuisances dealt with	...	...	760
Informal Notices served	...	...	312
Statutory Notices served	...	...	210

Inspections :—

	1st Visits	2nd Visits
Animal Keeping	24	36
Bakehouses	4	0
Dairies	5	37
Dwelling-houses	597	445
Factories, etc.	62	34
Food Premises	98	301
Offensive Trades	2	9
Rodent Control	30	8
Shops	23	9
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection	1	407
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	13	72
Verminous Premises	104	82
Water Supplies	15	0
Other Premises	236	261
	1,214	1,701

Factories, etc. :—

Cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	...					9
Fire escapes provided, altered or repaired	...					1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	6
Matters referred by H.M. Inspector	...					4

Shops :—

Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	1

On 1st January, the duty of administering Section 38, Sub-sections (3), (4) and (5), of the Shops Act, 1950, relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for taking meals, was transferred to this Council as agents for and by agreement with the County Council.

Miscellaneous Nuisances :—

Drains and other fittings tested	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drains repaired or unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	70
Dangerous structures made safe	...	...	...	...	...	1
Animal keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	11

Pet Animals Act, 1951 :—

Licences renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Contraventions dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	3

Smoke Abatement :—

Complaints of smoke nuisances investigated	...	...	...	...	...	19
Observations of chimney emissions recorded	...	...	...	...	...	86
Visits to boiler, etc. plants	...	...	...	...	...	38
Improvements effected by a change of fuel	...	...	...	...	...	3
Improvements effected by altering firing methods	...	...	...	...	...	6
Appropriate action taken regarding excessive smoke emission from railway locomotives	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cases investigated by Ministry of Fuel and Power Advisory Service	...	...	...	...	...	2

Public Mortuary :—

The premises in Kings Road, which have served this purpose for many years, are owned and maintained by the Council. During the year, the use of the Mortuary was required on five occasions. The Disinfecting Officer attends to routine cleansing.

Disinfecting Depot :—

The building in the Council's Store Yard, Springfield Street, has been enlarged and improved in order to provide more up-to-date accommodation. Separate compartments are included for equipment used for steam disinfection, fumigation and rodent and insect control. Also there is storage space for drain testing apparatus, tools and other items.

Disinfection and Disinfestation :—

Infected rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	35
Verminous rooms treated	...	...	...	...	...	162
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc. :—						
Steam disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	48
Destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	124
Other articles disinfected, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	44
Number of instances of bug infestation :—						
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other infestations of domestic pests treated :—						
Ants	...	...	...	...	...	59
Beetles	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	...	3
Crickets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flies	...	...	...	...	...	7
Mosquitos	...	...	...	...	...	1
Moths	...	...	...	...	...	1
Silver Fish	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wood boring insects	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	2

Rodent Control :—

The continued routine inspection of the district by the Rodent Officer has shown a further decrease in the number of infestations during the year. This improvement has been largely due to the systematic destruction of rodents for several years, together with the rat-proofing of buildings and other alterations, as well as to the co-operation of occupiers in early notification of the presence of rodents. The recent addition to the available poisons of "Warfarin" also has contributed its share, in that permanent baiting points can be maintained at premises especially attractive to rats or mice, and in this way potential infestations are dealt with at the outset.

Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,856
Repeat visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,229
Infestations dealt with :—(Rats 125; Mice 19)	...						144
(1) At Council properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(2) At private dwellings (free of charge)	...						110
(3) At business premises (occupiers charged)							26

Premises where continuous "Warfarin" baits used	22
Number of pre-baits laid	2,384
Number of poison baits laid	913
Improvements carried out	8
Premises under regular supervision at request of occupiers	23
Estimated number of rats killed (excluding "Warfarin")	1,668

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control :—

Written consent to establishment of trade of Rag and Bone Dealer renewed	1
Written consent to establishment of trade of Fat Extractor, Fat Melter and Glue Maker renewed	1

Eleven inspections of these premises were made, and the condition of the premises and conduct of the trades were usually found to be satisfactory. Two minor matters received attention.

Dealer in Old Metal :—

Certificate of Registration under Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, issued	1
Number of premises registered	1
Visits of inspection	5

Storage of Petroleum Spirit :—

Number of Licences issued	3
Number of Licences renewed	34
Number of Licences transferred	2
Number of inspections of premises	52
Number of contraventions rectified	11

Three of the above Licences include stores for cellulose solutions. There have been no applications for Licences for carbide of calcium storage.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952 :—

This Act came into operation on 23rd March, 1953, and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953, commenced to operate on 1st October, 1953. The new legislation provides that gas fires, electric fires and oil heaters designed for use in residential premises are to be fitted with fireguards. Standards of construction and tests for compliance are set out in detail. Heating appliances manufactured before 1st October, 1953, and not so protected, may be sold until the end of September, 1954.

Swimming Bath :—

The Council-owned indoor swimming pool again proved a popular attraction and 28,036 bathers attended during the Summer, including schools, clubs, etc. The purity of the water is maintained by a continuous filtration and chlorination plant, and frequent tests are made for chlorine content. A sample of the water was bacteriologically examined in the height of the season and was reported to be sterile.

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings :—

Number of camping sites for which licences have been issued	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of licences issued for moveable dwellings under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936	...					7

The portable sanitary conveniences with chemical equipment, which were originally provided by the Council for use in connection with the Inland Waterways Rally in 1950, were used at four events during the year, *viz.* : the Leicestershire Agricultural Show, a Pony Gymkhana, an Air Display and a Fete. Appropriate charges for hire, erection and dismantling were made, and servicing and removal of refuse were undertaken as a normal routine. Inspections were made of pleasure fairs, shows and sundry caravans which visited the district on eleven occasions. As a result of informal action one van was removed, and in ten other instances various sanitary improvements were effected. Three inspections were made of canal boats used for pleasure trips and two items received attention.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 :—

Number of premises registered for upholstering, etc.	1
Number of premises licensed for :—	
(a) Manufacture	0
(b) Storage of rag flock	0

HOUSING.

During the year, sixty-nine houses have been erected, as follows :—

		Council	Private Enterprise
Pre-fabricated—temporary	...	0	0
Pre-fabricated—permanent	...	0	0
Permanent construction	...	58	11

The total number of houses completed during the eight Post-War Years (1946-1953) is 449, and this figure includes 27 pre-fabricated temporary houses, 314 permanent Council Houses and 108 houses erected by private enterprise. In addition, 32 flats have been provided by conversion of existing dwellings and other buildings during the same period.

At the close of the year, seventy-six permanent houses were in course of construction, *viz.* : sixty-six by the Council and ten by private enterprise.

Since the commencement of the Southern Estate in 1951, good progress in the erection of houses has been maintained, and at the end of 1953, 182 houses were completed. Ten new houses were also built on the Station Road site, Great Bowden.

During the year, 131 new applications for the tenancy of Council Houses were received, and the total number of applicants on the list at the end of the year was 442.

Seventeen unfit houses were inspected under the Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932, and reports submitted to the Council. As a result, one house in Sulley's Yard was closed and converted to business purposes. Demolition Orders were served in respect of six houses in Station Road, and ten houses in Bowling Green Place are now being dealt with. In consequence of informal action, twelve other unfit houses were closed and converted to other purposes.

The following repairs to dwelling-houses have been carried out in compliance with informal notices :—

Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	8
General structural repairs effected	...	...	...	...	...	26
Drains and sanitary fittings repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	40
Cleansing and other items remedied	...	...	...	...	...	32

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	192
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	301
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	30
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	17
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	44

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	44
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers :—*

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
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4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	14
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	99

(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(3)	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases							78
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Grant earning schemes under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949 :—

		Number in 1953	Total up to 31st Dec., 1953
Schemes approved by Council	3	5	
Average cost of grant earning works per dwelling provided or improved	—	£313	
Average grant per dwelling	—	£156	
Schemes completed and grant paid ...	2	3	

The grants are made by the Local Authority, but the Council is reimbursed to the extent of 75% by Exchequer contributions spread over 20 years.

Many enquiries are now being received from prospective applicants, and an increase in the use of this part of the Housing Act, 1949, is anticipated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :—

						No. on Register
Distributors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies (not being Dairy Farms)	...	...	...	...	...	3

The following Licences have been issued :—

(1)	Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—	
	(a) Dealers licences : Pasteurised	...
		...
		...
	Sterilised	...
		...
		...
	(b) Supplementary Licences	...
		...
		...
(2)	Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—	
	(a) Dealers Licences : Tuberculin Tested	...
		...
		...
	(b) Supplementary Licences	...
		...
		...

Bacteriological Milk Sampling :—

Grade		Number of Samples for bacteriological examination	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
“Tuberculin Tested”	...	12	11	1
“Accredited”	...	0	0	0
“Pasteurised”	...	10	9	1
“Sterilised”	...	0	0	0
Undesignated	...	3	3	0
		—	—	—
		25	23	2
		—	—	—

The above sample reports have shown a further improvement in the cleanliness of the milk, the proportion of satisfactory samples being 92% as compared with 80% in the previous year. The samples were taken principally from dealers during distribution to the consumers. The quantity of undesignated milk now sold is very small. Forty-two inspections of dairies, vehicles, etc., have been made during the year. Two local pasteurising plants are licensed by the Leicestershire County Council and frequent samples from these plants have been collected by the County Health Department. Copies of the reports received have indicated that all samples from one plant were satisfactory, and that in the case of the other plant several samples of the milk and the result of tests on the bottles during the latter part of the year were unsatisfactory. Thorough investigation into the cause is proceeding and appropriate action is being taken by the County Council.

Biological Milk Sampling :—

The following samples were collected under the Leicestershire County Council Scheme :—

Number of samples taken	Number Satisfactory	Number showing evidence of Tubercle Bacilli	Number showing evidence of Brucella Abortus
15	15	0	0

The sampling of milk retailed in its raw state (other than heat-treated) was carried out from the two farms concerned on three occasions during the year. Each sample was representative of the bulk supply of each herd of dairy cows. The reports revealed that in all cases there was no evidence of the presence of tubercle bacilli or brucella abortus. Weekly bulk sampling during the first nine weeks of the year was continued in respect of the farm affected with brucella abortus and referred to in the 1952 Annual Report, and all nine samples proved negative.

Ice Cream :—

Trade			Number of Premises Registered
Manufacture and retail	...	...	0
Manufacture only	...	...	0
Retail only	...	...	31
Certificates of Registration issued	...	...	3

Nine samples of ice cream of the various brands retailed in the district were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test. The reports those of the previous year are set out below :—

			1952	1953
Grade 1	...	...	8	7
Grade 2	...	...	0	2
Grade 3	...	...	1	0
Grade 4	...	...	1	0
			—	—
			10	9
			—	—

No samples were placed in Grades 3 and 4, and thus an improvement on last year's samples is indicated. Seventeen inspections of premises and vehicles were made and two contraventions were rectified. A large proportion of the ice cream is sold in pre-packed form.

Meat and Other Foods :—

The Council's Slaughterhouse in Springfield Street has continued to be used as the Regional Slaughterhouse and Distributing Centre for the supply of meat to the town and surrounding rural area under the control of the Ministry of Food. During the past fourteen years of control a total of 114,608 animals have been slaughtered in these premises. A satisfactory standard of repair has been maintained by the Council often at considerable expense as a result of the heavy wear and tear, also many improvements have been effected. In April, 1953, a scheme for a modern gas-heated hot water installation was accepted by the Council, and in due course a loan of £545 was sanctioned by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The necessary work was put in hand and it is anticipated will be completed early in 1954.

During the past year, the number of animals slaughtered totalled 9,003, and the routine inspection of all carcases and offals necessitated 408 visits. The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human food amounted to 18 tons. 1 cwt. 16 lbs., for which 230 certificates were issued. One Licence to Slaughter was issued and two licences renewed. One contravention of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, was dealt with.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1,233	363	452	5,252	1,703
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	6	6	12	104	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	383	162	4	328	213
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculo- sis	31.5	46.6	3.5	8.2	13.5
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	2	8	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	110	65	—	—	41
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculosis	9.1	20.1	—	—	2.4

Three hundred and thirty-two visits of inspection have been made to premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, and of food delivery vehicles. Attention has been given to the protection of unwrapped food-stuffs displayed on shop counters and more particularly confectionery and similar foods which are not subject to cooking after sale. Also green-grocers and others have been asked to keep all unprotected food at least 18 inches above the floor in the space occupied by customers. Advice has been given in regard to many other matters affecting the standard of hygiene, and as a result, many traders have shown their willingness

to co-operate and have greatly improved the conditions under which food is handled and sold, and incidentally the attractiveness of their shop displays.

Thirty-seven copies of the Industrial Welfare Society's excellent booklet "Food Safety First" were distributed to all catering establishments in the area including hotels, cafes, factory and school canteens, hostels and institutions.

The following matters have received attention at food premises :—

Rooms repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	9
Cleanliness of equipment improved	...	...	...	2
Sanitary conveniences repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	2
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	3
Food protected from contamination	...	...	...	18
Drainage defects rectified	...	...	...	9
Smoking while handling food (warnings)	...	...	...	3
Food delivering vehicles improved	...	...	...	2
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	9

During the visits of inspection, foodstuffs of many varieties have been inspected, and requests to examine doubtful or damaged food have been complied with on 31 occasions. The total quantity of miscellaneous articles of food found to be unfit for human consumption was 1,318 lbs. 8½ ozs., involving the issue of 212 condemn certificates.

Eleven premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of preserved food.

No notification of food poisoning has been received, and there have been no outbreaks during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS :-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec-tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	73	55	9	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	49	24	6	—
(3) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	17	4	—
Total ..	130	96	19	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—	
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable tem- perature .. .	—	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors .. .	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary conve- niences:						
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective .. .	6	6	—	2	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .	—	—	—	—	—	
Other offences ..	9	9	—	2	—	
Total ..	19	19	—	4	—	

3. OUTWORK :-

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers on List
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	28

